

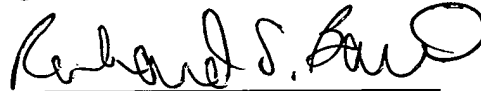
October 18, 1999.

It is noted that Kobayashi JP 2000-174880, which was applied in the June 21, 2002 Office Action in rejections of claims, was published on June 23, 2000. Kobayashi was thus published after applicants' Japanese priority date.

It is further noted that applicants' JP 195440/1999 was filed before the April 7, 2000 publication date of the Ota et al. JP 2000-101284 reference. Ota et al was combined with Kobayashi et al in a rejection of claims in the June 21, 2002 Office Action.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encs.:

- (1) Copies of Japanese language texts for "Literatures 1 to 4";
- (2) English language translation of applicants' priority document including a STATEMENT OF ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION of Mr. Yosuke Goto dated October 18, 2002.